

# MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HURLOCK

## MINUTES

MAY 09, 2011

The Mayor and Council of Hurlock met in regular session at the Town Hall on Monday, May 9, 2011 with Mayor Joyce Spratt, and Council Members Charles Cephas, Michael Nordstrom, Parker Durham and Clerk/Treasurer Kathleen Clough present. Council Members Michael Henry, Christopher Adams and Town Attorney Hugh Carter Vinson were absent.

Mayor Spratt called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and after the Pledge of Allegiance and the Invocation, UPON MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER Durham AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER Nordstrom, the agenda was approved. Council Member Cephas abstained.

Mr. Lee Davis, who had signed up to be on the Agenda to discuss Jackson Street, stated that he did not really want to talk about Jackson Street. His desire was to discuss freedom of speech.

Mr. Monroe Quailes signed up to be on the Agenda to talk about "Hurlock issues/general concerns." Mr. Quailes said he should not have to go to FOIA to get financial documents from the Town, and alluded to another lawsuit, saying "it won't be promised; it will be threatened."

### Adoption of April 25, 2011 Minutes

UPON MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER Parker Durham AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER Michael Nordstrom, the Minutes of the April 25, 2011 Town Meeting were approved. Council Member Cephas abstained.

### Mayor's Report

Mayor Spratt advised the Council that she had received a letter of appreciation and thanks from Chesapeake Utilities for adopting the Franchise Agreement.

### Clerk/Treasurer Report

CLERK/TREASURER KATHLEEN CLOUGH SUBMITTED THE FOLLOWING REPORT TO THE COUNCIL REGARDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012 BUDGET

1. INCREASE IN WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE  
Hurlock's current policy expires on June 26, 2011. The expiring premium is \$38,555. The expected renewal premium will be approximately \$58, 632; an increase of \$20,077.
2. INCREASE IN HEALTH INSURANCE  
Meeting May 18, 2011 to review coverage and increase in rates.
3. CHANGES IN MARYLAND STATE RETIREMENT AND PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS  
EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTION WILL GO UP FROM 5% TO 7%;  
TOWN'S CONTRIBUTION TO INCREASE BY SAME PERCENTAGE.  
TEN YEARS TO BE VESTED VERSUS THE CURRENT FIVE YEARS TO BECOME VESTED.  
ELECTED OFFICIALS ARE AUTOMATICALLY VESTED UPON ELECTION.
4. FISCAL YEAR 2012 PROPERTY AND LIABILITY FINAL RATE INDICATIONS  
EQUIPMENT BREAKDOWN RATES WILL REMAIN FLAT. PRIMARY LIABILITY RATES HAVE INCREASED 1.3%. PROPERTY RATE HAS BEEN REDUCED BY 9.6%. FIGURING IN CREDITS, THE TOWN'S OVERALL NET AGGREGATE RATE CHANGE IS -5.7% ACROSS ALL LINES.
5. FISCAL YEAR 2012 PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY RATE INDICATIONS  
HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED COMMUNICATION AS TO ANY PREMIUM CHANGES AT THIS TIME, HOWEVER, THE TOWN'S PREMIUM DID INCREASE BY 19% THIS FISCAL YEAR DUE TO ONE SMALL LAWSUIT.

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6. NOVEMBER 2011 ELECTION

IN ORDER TO CUT COSTS, HURLOCK IS PARTNERING WITH THE COUNTY FOR THE UPCOMING ELECTION. THE ELECTION BOARD WILL PRESENT THE MAYOR WITH A PROPOSAL; THE COUNTY WILL SUPPLY THE ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINES, AS THE TOWN'S ARE OBSOLETE AND ARE NO LONGER CERTIFIED, AND THEY WILL OVERSEE THE ENTIRE ELECTION PROCESS. THE COST IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPARABLE TO PAST ELECTIONS RUN BY THE TOWN.

Planning & Zoning; Code Enforcement

Goose Creek is still scheduled for expansion. The holdup has been the approval of the interior design by Subway.

A number of properties have transferred and are now under complete renovation, they include; 103 Dorchester Ave., 205 Taylor Ave., 200 James Street and 106 Mapleton.

Grass cutting: The Town is cutting 9 properties on a regular basis. These properties are foreclosure properties whose companies have not assumed maintenance responsibility. Bills are being amassed for the grass cuttings and are required to be paid before the properties transfer.

Mr. John Avery advised the Mayor and Council that interest has been shown in using the old Acme warehouse between Nealson Street and Railroad Ave. for a pallet business. Operations would include the sorting and repair of pallets and would be conducted inside the building. The business would require having a number of trailers on the property at any given time. The property was zoned I-2 and was rezoned to C-2 a couple of years ago. The proposed use is more suitable for I-2 property than C-2. Assemblage of finished products is allowable in C-2 zoned property; the number of trailers is the conflict. In considering the proposed use the business owner has agreed to clean up and remove the rubble from the site. This business would create 3 to 6 jobs. There would be no storage and no odor.

Council President Charles Cephas stated that the Town would get tax revenue and it meets the criteria.

UPON MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER Durham AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER Nordstrom, the Council voted unanimously to move forward.

Mr. John Avery, Planning & Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer reported to the Mayor and Council that we are in the final stages of applying for a **Community Development Block Grant**; the scope of the work would include a 1-1/2 inch asphalt overlay of Nealson Street. A resolution by the Mayor and Council authorizing an application for the grant is required. The Mayor met with Comptroller Peter Franchot last Friday who stated that he would be issuing a letter of support for the grant, it will be included in the application package. Mr. Franchot met with us last year regarding the lost highway user fees, and toured the Town at that time and saw the deplorable condition of the Town streets, especially Nealson Street.

Council President Cephas asked Mr. Avery to request a letter of support from our State Representatives. Mr. Avery thanked the residents who responded to the survey to complete the application. The Council thanked Mr. Avery for his excellent work.

The Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 P.M., to be continued following the Public Hearing regarding the Resolution to apply for a Community Development Block Grant.

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Mayor Spratt reconvened the Regular Session of the Mayor and Council Town of Hurlock at 6:37 P.M.

UPON MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER Nordstrom AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER Durham, the Council voted unanimously to authorized Mr. Avery to move forward with the Grant Application and Adopted the Resolution to apply for a Grant for \$175,000 to repair and improve with a one and a half inch asphalt overlay to Nealson Street, the only Route between two State Highways.

Department of Public Works Report was given to the Mayor and Council by Mr. Gilliard and Chief Hutton gave his report for the Hurlock Police Department.

### County Councilman Rick Price

Following reports from the Department of Public Works and the Hurlock Police Department, County Councilman Rick Price advised the Council that the County Council has proposed an eight cent increase in the County Tax rate, with a 3.9 cent differential for Hurlock.

### Old Business

Council President Cephas stated that he would like to meet with the Council next week to discuss his Charter Amendments and the Budget.

### New Business

No new business was brought to the Council.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Cedric Turner, speaking for the Ministers and Citizens Organization, reminded the Council and Citizens that the Parade will be Saturday from 10:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. He reported to the Council that they have a few participants for the parade and a good number of vendors; they are still accepting applications for food vendors and parade participants. Rain date is the following Saturday.

Council President Cephas suggested that people attending the parade sponsor local businesses; support our own, shop right here.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Clough, M.S.  
Clerk/Treasurer